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# INTERNAL AFFAIRS BUREAU
# INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY
# IAB# IV2324547

**DIVISION/UNIT:** North Patrol Division/Santa Clarita Station
**DATE:** November 13, 2012, approximately 0330 hours, Tuesday
**LOCATION:** 23740 Magic Mountain Parkway, Valencia, CA. 91355
Santa Clarita Station Jail
**SUBJECT:** Joseph Ament, Deputy Sheriff Generalist, #[redacted]

**ALLEGATIONS:**
This case pertained to allegations that Deputy Joseph Ament, #[redacted] while on-duty, made sexual comments and kissed a newly booked, in-custody female. It is also alleged that Deputy Ament texted the female immediately upon her release from custody. *(Manual of Policy and Procedures, sections 3-01/030.05; General Behavior and 3-01/050.90; Fraternization and Prohibited Associations.)*

**SYNOPSIS:**
On November 13, 2012, Complainant [redacted] was arrested by officers from California Highway Patrol (CHP) for driving under the influence of alcohol. The officers transported and booked Complainant [redacted] at the Santa Clarita Sheriff Station jail with a 0.11 % Blood Alcohol Content (BAC).

After CHP left and prior to being fingerprinted, Complainant [redacted] requested to use the bathroom, so Deputy Ament removed her from the front booking cell and walked her to the sober tank/cell. After Complainant [redacted] entered the bathroom and used the toilet, she saw Subject Ament looking at her through the glass window. After her use of the bathroom she was returned to the front booking cell.

During the process of fingerprinting and photographs, Complainant [redacted] said the jailer, Subject Deputy Joseph Ament, entered her cellular phone number into his cellular phone. He then requested that she type her name next to her number so that it was spelled correctly, promising to assist her with her DUI arrest/criminal case. Subject Ament denied he had his phone with him, stating Complainant [redacted] delayed the fingerprinting process because she talked about her arrest/criminal case and wanted to know the court process.

Complainant [redacted] stated Subject Ament made sexual comments to her and was flirtatious toward her during the process, which Subject Ament denied.

After being fingerprinted, Subject Ament took Complainant [redacted] o the sober holding tank/cell as a courtesy to her uncle who is a fireman with the Los Angeles County Fire Department, instead of placing her inside the female holding cell.

Complainant [redacted] was lying on the floor resting when Subject Ament returned a short time later. Subject Ament opened the sober tank door and entered the cell. He then told her she was beautiful and asked her if she wanted to make her first jail experience something to remember as he sat down next to her on the mattress.

As they talked about her arrest, Subject Ament leaned toward her lips with his lips and attempted to kiss her. Complainant [redacted] turned her head, which caused Subject Ament to kiss her cheek area. Complainant [redacted] immediately stood up and backed away. Subject Ament stood up, apologized, and promised to check on her later.

Approximately 30 minutes later, Subject Ament returned and told her she could use the telephone. As she exited the door, Subject Ament stood in front of her and blocked her exit. He wrapped his right arm around her waist and pulled her body toward his until they stood face to face and placed his hands on her hips. Subject Ament removed his left hand from her right hip, placed it on her right breast, rubbed and manipulated it, while he simultaneously leaned forward to kiss her mouth.

Complainant [redacted] turned her head away from him. However, he successfully kissed the left side of her upper lip and cheek with his open mouth. She told him that she wanted to make her phone call, but he told her wait and pulled her closer, while he leaned in to kiss her again. Complainant [redacted] told him "no" and pushed his chest.

Subject Ament removed his left hand from her right breast and grabbed Complainant [redacted] right hand. He then forced the palm of her open right hand onto his erect penis, outside of his pants. As Complainant [redacted] leaned away and arched her back, she felt Subject Ament's erect penis pushed against her vaginal area.

Complainant [redacted] pulled her hand from Subject Ament's grasp and pushed against Subject Ament's chest which allowed her to break free from his grasp of her right hand. Subject Ament again apologized and walked her to the front holding cell to use the telephone.

Complainant [redacted] then called her [redacted], Non-Employee Witness [redacted] to get a ride home. Prior to being released from custody, Complainant [redacted] said Subject Ament told her that he would assist her with her criminal DUI case.

After her release, Complainant [redacted] said she started to receive text messages from Subject Ament's cellular phone (ending in [redacted]) and she only corresponded with him because she wanted help with her case. She said Subject Ament gave her a secondary phone number (ending in [redacted]) to use. She said Subject Ament sent her two photographs of himself and she sent him two photographs of herself, clothed.

A day or so after Complainant [redacted]'s release from custody, she was contacted by Non-Employee Witness [redacted], who asked her [redacted] why she was texting her [redacted] Subject Ament. She explained to Witness [redacted] that she met Subject Ament while she was in custody and that they "made out" in the jail. She also told Witness [redacted] that she planned to report Subject Ament's inappropriate actions to the Sheriff's Department, which Witness [redacted] agreed with.

On November 18, 2012, Complainant [redacted] called the Santa Clarita Sheriff's Station and spoke to Lieutenant Tom Bryski about Subject Ament's actions during her in custody jail time. Lieutenant Bryski submitted a memorandum and requested an investigation into the allegations. *Refer to Lieutenant Bryski's telephone interviews and transcripts of Complainant* [redacted] *presented in **Volume 2**, as **Exhibit A**, in the case book.*

On November 19, 2012, a Request for an Internal Affairs Bureau Investigation memorandum was submitted.

On November 20, 2012, Subject Ament was relieved of duty at home. *Refer to Subject Ament's Relieved of Duty Admonition, presented in **Volume 2**, as **Exhibit B**, in the case book.*

On January 25, 2013, Internal Affairs Bureau's (IAB) Lieutenant Michael Berg and Lieutenant Victor Lewandowski interviewed Complainant [redacted]. They believed a possible sexual battery crime occurred and the case was referred to Internal Criminal Investigations Bureau (ICIB) and investigated criminally.

On August 28, 2013, the case was submitted to the Justice System Integrity Division (JSID) of the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office.

On October 3, 2013, Deputy District Attorney Rosa Alarcon declined to file because it did not meet JSID's filing criteria. The case was referred to the Santa Clarita District Attorney's Office for consideration a of a misdemeanor filing for sexual battery.

On October 4, 2013, Deputy District Attorney Alarcon forwarded the case to Deputy District Attorney Jeff Gootman at the Santa Clarita District Attorney's Office, for review.

On October 29, 2013, Deputy District Attorney Gootman rejected the case based on insufficient evidence to convince a jury of guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. *Refer to ICIB's Report, the District Attorney's Charge Evaluation Work Sheet, and Department Memorandums regarding the criminal disposition located in the ICIB case book, presented in **Volume 2**, as **Exhibit C, pages 28A through 28E**, in the IAB case book.*

Subject Joseph Ament denied he kiss, fondled or grabbed Complainant [redacted] while she was in custody. He denied he watched Complainant [redacted] while she urinated in the sober tank/cell. He did not text Complainant [redacted] or send pictures of himself with his cellular phone, and that someone must have pulled his picture off his Facebook page and sent the photographs. He said his [redacted] Witness [redacted] possibly texted Complainant [redacted] from his phone, which she denied doing.

> **IAB Note:** In Witness [redacted]'s interview, she said she became suspicious of Subject Ament and checked his electronic mail (e-mail) account and saw that Subject Ament had been texting and sending photographs of himself to Complainant [redacted]. Refer to her statements, listed in ***Volume 1***, as under ***Transcribed Interviews – Non-Employee Witnesses***, section of the case book.

Subject Ament stated the reason Complainant [redacted] made these allegations against him was because he would not release her early.

Subject Ament also denied having an alternate phone account ending in [redacted] or an alternate e-mail account listed as [redacted] He said unknown person(s) used his cellular phone number, ending in [redacted] to open the alternate phone account.

> **IAB Note:** Per Google, the alternate cellular phone account ending in [redacted] was created on May 30, 2012, under a subscriber name of [redacted]' with a SMS (Short Message Service) # ending in [redacted] The SMS is also commonly known and referred to as a text message, which is a short message consisting of 160 characters or less. The computer used to create the Google Account is an IP (Internet protocol) address registered to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department with an e-mail address listed as [redacted] *For further, refer to Google's Subscriber Information sheet, presented in **Volume 2**, as **Exhibit C, page 284**.*

> **IAB Note:** In an audit check by Senior Information Systems Analyst Matthew Chen, #[redacted] from Data Systems Bureau, stated they were unable to determine the exact location and/or Department computer that was used to create the Google e-mail address, [redacted]. *For ICIB's complete investigative summary, refer to their case book, presented in **Volume 2**, as **Exhibit C, pages 1 through 28E**, located in the IAB case book.*

On April 22, 2014, Chief Jacques A. La Berge, received an electronic mail (e-mail) from [redacted] who stated she had possible additional information to provide. Ms. [redacted] overheard a group of three unknown women talking in a restaurant about an unknown deputy who was "fired". One of the women made comments that she offered the deputy a "blow job" and other sexual favors, but the deputy declined the offers. *For further, refer to the e-mail, presented in **Volume 2**, as **Exhibit K**, located in the IAB case book.*

**COMPLAINANT'S STATEMENTS:** [redacted] *FW/*[redacted] *DOB* [redacted]

Complainant [redacted] called the Santa Clarita Sheriff's Station on November 18, 2012, and spoke to Watch Commander Lieutenant Tom Bryski regarding her contact with a Deputy "Joe" (Ament) after her arrest by California Highway Patrol (CHP) officers on November 13, 2012.

Ms. [redacted] alleged Deputy Ament made sexual comments, flirted and kissed her on her lips during the booking process. She said that upon her release from custody, Deputy Ament texted her approximately 20-30 times. When she threatened to report him, Deputy Ament stopped texting her. *For further, refer to the CD containing Complainant* [redacted]*'s telephone calls and transcripts, presented in **Volume 2**, as **Exhibit A**, and the exchanged texts located in the Internal Criminal Investigations Bureau's (ICIB) case book, presented in **Volume 2**, as **Exhibit C, pages 31-89**, in this case book.*

On January 25, 2013, Complainant [redacted] was interviewed at her residence by Internal Affairs Bureau's Lieutenant Michael Berg and Lieutenant Victor Lewandowski from North County Correctional Facility, which was summarized by Internal Criminal Investigations Bureau (ICIB) investigators and included in their criminal case book, presented in ***Volume 2***, as ***Exhibit C***, ***pages 4 through 5***. Below is a summary of the interview. *For Ms.* [redacted]*'s complete statements, refer to IAB's audio files and/or the transcribed interview, provided in the Internal Criminal Investigations Bureau's (ICIB) case book, presented in **Volume 2**, as **Exhibit C, pages 91-142**, in this case book.*

Complainant [redacted] stated that she was arrested for Driving under the Influence (DUI) by officers from the California Highway Patrol (CHP) and transported to the Santa Clarita Sheriff's Station for booking. Upon her arrival in the jail, Complainant [redacted] said Subject Ament tilted his head toward her, raised his eyebrows upward and gave her a look as if to "check" her out.

After the CHP officers left, she was placed in a holding cell with another female who was passed out. She said during this time frame, Subject Ament began talking to her on a personal level and offered to assist her with her DUI arrest, so she provided Subject Ament with her personal cellular phone number after he offered to help her with her DUI arrest.

Complainant [redacted] said Subject Ament placed her in a large cell while she waited to be fingerprinted and photographed. During this time, she alleged Subject Ament visited her several times. On one occasion, he kissed her on her mouth. On another occasion, he squeezed her breast and forced her hand onto the front of his pants where she felt his erect penis.

After Complainant [redacted] was released from custody, she received text messages from Subject Ament and maintained a relationship with him through phone calls and text messages. Several days after her arrest, Complainant [redacted] was contacted by a female who claimed to be Subject Ament's [redacted] which ended her relationship with Subject Ament. Ms [redacted] then filed a complaint at Santa Clarita Sheriff's Station alleging she had been kissed and touched inappropriately by Subject Ament.

*On March 21, 2013, Complainant [redacted] was interviewed by Sergeants [redacted] and Raymond Moeller from Internal Criminal Investigations Bureau (ICIB). Below is a summary of their statements. For their complete summarized statements, refer to the ICIB case book, presented in **Volume 2**, as **Exhibit C**, **pages 5 through 16**. For Ms. [redacted]s complete statements, refer to IAB's audio files and/or the transcribed interview, listed in **Volume 1**, under **Transcriptions-Complainant**, section of the case book.*

Complainant [redacted] stated she was arrested by CHP for driving under the influence of alcohol, her blood alcohol content was .09% and she was booked at the Santa Clarita Jail. Approximately one hour after she entered the jail and prior to being fingerprinted or photographed, she said her contact with Subject Ament began when she requested to use the bathroom.

Subject Ament removed her from the holding cell near the front jail area and took her to a large holding cell that had a small window and a bathroom (sober tank/cell). She said Subject Ament left her in the holding cell without closing or securing the door. She waited until Subject Ament walked away before using the toilet. As she urinated, she saw Subject Ament looking at her through a small window. Although she felt Subject Ament did nothing wrong, Complainant [redacted] was uncomfortable that Subject Ament watched her urinate.

**IAB Note:** For further, refer to the jail's security video ***(Volume 2, Exhibit D)***, that showed Complainant [redacted] being moved at 0406:19 hours by Subject Ament from the front booking cell to the sober tank. At 0406:52 hours, it showed Subject Ament leaned against the hallway wall, adjacent to the sober tank window, and looked inside the sober tank window approximately 27 seconds. At 04:07:57 hours, it shows Complainant [redacted] returning to the main hallway from the sober tank hallway.

Also, refer to photographs of the Santa Clarita Sheriff's Jail area and a sketch of the sober tank provided by Deputy Ronald Ducat #[redacted] from Scientific Services Bureau, presented in the ICIB case book, *listed in **Volume 2**, as **Exhibit C, pages 230-250.***

After Complainant [redacted] finished using the bathroom, Deputy Ament took her back to the holding tank near the front jail area. A short time later, Subject Ament removed Complainant [redacted] from the front holding cell and took her to another room for photographs and fingerprinting.

During the process of fingerprinting and photographs, Subject Ament engaged in conversation with her. She said Subject Ament asked her if the cellular phone booked into her property was hers. She told him the cellular phone was hers and asked him why he asked. Subject Ament removed an "iPhone" from his pocket and asked her for her cellular phone number stating her could help her with her DUI arrest and get her out of trouble.

With the pretense of having Subject Ament assist her with her DUI arrest/case, Complainant [redacted] gave Subject Ament her cellular phone number ending in [redacted] and watched him enter the number into his cellular phone. He then handed Complainant [redacted] his phone and asked her to enter her name with the correct spelling next to her phone number, which she complied with.

Complainant [redacted] said Subject Ament continued with the booking process and photographed her tattoos. She said she was told to pull down her pants in order to photograph a tattoo located below the waistline and hip area, along the side of her leg. After Subject Ament took the photograph of her leg, he told Complainant [redacted] he was taking her back to the holding cell at the front jail area.

Because there was another female in the front holding cell that made Complainant [redacted], she asked Subject Ament if she could be housed by herself. Subject Ament agreed and took Complainant [redacted] to the sober tank where he gave her a mattress and blanket. He locked the door and told her he would return later to check on her.

Complainant [redacted] stated she was lying on the floor resting when Subject Ament returned a short time later. Subject Ament opened the sober tank door and entered the cell. She said Subject Ament looked at her and told her she was beautiful as he walked toward her in a confident, cocky manner. Subject Ament asked her if she wanted to make her first jail experience something to remember and then sat next to her on the mattress. As they talked about her arrest, Subject Ament moved toward her and they sat next to one another with their bodies touching shoulder to shoulder.

After a few minutes of conversation, Subject Ament leaned toward her lips with his lips and attempted to kiss her, but Complainant [redacted] turned her head at which time Subject Ament kissed her cheek area. Complainant [redacted] immediately stood up and backed away. Subject Ament stood up, apologized and asked her if he made her nervous. She replied "very" and Subject Ament walked out of the cell, promising to check on her later.

Approximately 30 minutes later, Subject Ament returned and told her she could use the telephone. As she exited the door, Subject Ament stood in front of her and blocked her exit. He wrapped his right arm around her waist and pulled her body toward his until they stood face to face and placed his hands on her hips. Subject Ament removed his left hand from her right hip, placed it on her right breast, rubbed and manipulated the breast for approximately three seconds and simultaneously leaned forward to kiss her on her mouth.

Complainant [redacted] urned her head away from him. However, he successfully kissed the left side of her upper lip and cheek with his open mouth for approximately one second. As he held her, Subject Ament said something to her, but she was distraught and did not recall what was said. She told him that she wanted to make her phone call, but he told her wait and pulled her closer. Complainant [redacted] leaned back until she was against the wall, placed her hands in front of her upper body and told Subject Ament "no."

Subject Ament leaned into her face at which time Complainant [redacted] placed her hands on his chest and began to push him away. Subject Ament removed his left hand from her right breast and grabbed Complainant [redacted]'s right hand. He then forced the palm of her open right hand onto his erect penis, outside of his pants for approximately two seconds. As Complainant [redacted] eaned away and arched her back, she felt Subject Ament's erect penis pushed against her vaginal area.

Complainant [redacted] pulled her hand from Subject Ament's grasp and pushed against Subject Ament's chest which allowed her to break free from his grasp of her right hand. Subject Ament then apologized and walked her to the front holding cell to use the telephone at approximately 0515 hours. She asked Subject Ament if he was going to help her get out of jail and he replied by saying "he would do his best." *Regarding Complainant* [redacted]*s (2) calls from the jail, refer to the CD, presented in* ***Volume 2****, as* ***Exhibit E****, in the case book.*

**IAB Note**: There were no cameras which covered the inside or outside of the Sober Cell where Complainant [redacted] was held and where the actions between [redacted] and Ament allegedly occurred.

Complainant [redacted] stated she was released from custody at approximately 0600 hours and Subject Ament walked her outside. He told her he was going to help her with her DUI arrest and gave her a hug on the side of her body, which she felt was awkward. She said she did not return his hug. Subject Ament also told her that he would text her so that she would have his number and be able to contact him. *For further, refer to the jail's security video **(Volume 2, Exhibit D)**, which shows Subject Ament removing Complainant [redacted] from the front booking cell at 05:51:15.*

**IAB Note:** ICIB investigators asked Complainant [redacted] about several discrepancies from her initial statement to IAB and statements she made to them (ICIB). She explained to ICIB investigators that in her initial interview with Lieutenants Berg and Lewandowski, she felt awkward and uncomfortable because her father was in the back bedroom with her child and her mother disrupted their interview. She said that since the incident and the time between both interviews, she had either forgotten a lot or did not remember.

Upon being released from custody, Complainant [redacted] turned on her cellular phone (ending in [redacted]) and saw she had a text message from Subject Ament's cellular phone, ending in [redacted] The text read, "So, do I get to see you later?" Complainant [redacted] replied, "Of course." *For further regarding their text exchanges, refer to the ICIB case book, presented in **Volume 2**, as **Exhibit C, pages 31-89**, or CD containing the messages, presented in **Volume 2**, as **Exhibit F**, in this case book.*

**IAB Note:** From November 13, 2012, at 0602 hours, to November 18, 2012, 1800 hours, there were seven actual listed call/text messages exchanges between Subject Ament's cellular phone, ending in [redacted] to Complainant [redacted]'s cellular phone, ending in [redacted] *For further, refer to the Court Order to Obtain Subscriber Information for Cellular Account ending in # [redacted] and Subscriber Information for that same account, **Volume 2, Exhibit C, pages 149**, and **151-220 (Item # 467, 513, 514, 517, 518, 578 and 579)**.*

**IAB Note:** The actual amount of usage or "bytes" used to exchange text messages for Subject Ament's cellular phone ending in # [redacted] are included in ***Volume 2***, ***Exhibit C***, starting on ***page 161***.

Complainant [redacted] believed she and Subject Ament were going to talk because he told her he was going to help her with her DUI arrest and get the charges reduced. She admitted the exchange of text messages were mutually playful and flirtatious because she thought he was going to help her with her arrest charge. She denied that she was going to meet up or go out with Subject Ament because she already had a [redacted] (Non-Employee Witness [redacted]). Subject Ament provided her with an additional cellular phone number ending in [redacted] and told her she could contact him at this additional number.

**IAB Note:** From November 14, 2012 to November 17, 2012, there were 18 calls/text messages from Subject Ament's cellular phone, ending in #[redacted] to Complainant [redacted]s cellular phone, ending in #[redacted] *Refer to the Court Order to Obtain Subscriber Information for Cellular Account ending in #[redacted] and Subscriber Information for that same account,* ***Volume 2, Exhibit C, pages 150*** *and* ***221-225****.*

Subject Ament sent her two photographs of himself and she admitted she sent him two photographs of herself. Subject Ament requested that she send him nude photographs of herself, but she refused. Complainant [redacted] stated she was "dumb" and continued to text Subject Ament because she believed he could get her out of trouble (DUI arrest/case).

Complainant [redacted] admitted she built a rapport with Subject Ament and reciprocated a flirtatious demeanor with him because she wanted to take advantage of his help regarding her DUI arrest/case. She stopped being flirtatious with him once he became physical and tried to kiss her. She stopped texting Subject Ament when she learned he had a [redacted] (Non-Employee Witness [redacted], the [redacted] of his (Subject Ament's) [redacted]

Complainant [redacted] ended up calling Witness [redacted] and explained her contact with Subject Ament and his actions toward her while she was in custody. She said Witness [redacted] encouraged her to report Subject Ament's actions to the Sheriff's Department. After a few days of thought, Complainant [redacted] said she called the Santa Clarita Sheriff's Station on November 18, 2012 and reported the incident.

Ms. [redacted] stated that on November 19, 2012, she received a telephone call from Witness [redacted] who told her that Subject Ament had his badge and gun taken away, and was relieved of duty. Witness [redacted] urged Complainant [redacted] to withdraw her complainant and tell the Department that she [redacted] made a mistake, claiming it was all a misunderstanding.

After Complainant [redacted] told Witness [redacted] that she was not going to withdraw her complaint, Witness [redacted] became rude toward her, so she [redacted] ended the conversation and has not spoken to Witness [redacted] since.

Complainant [redacted] did not believe the investigation into this incident would grow and she regretted that she waited so long to report it. She said a few things prevented her from initially reporting the incident. Such as Subject Ament telling her he could get in trouble with work, he had a [redacted] coupled with her belief that he could help her with her DUI arrest/case.

Complainant [redacted] identified Subject Ament in a "six-pack" photographic line-up. *For further, refer to her selection in the ICIB criminal case book, presented in* ***Volume 2****, as* ***Exhibit C, pages 144-145****, in the case book.*

**IAB Note:** ICIB investigators randomly interviewed other potential victims/witnesses. The women could not provide any additional information. *For further, refer to their audiotaped interviews, presented in* ***Volume 2****, as* ***Exhibit G****, in the case book.*

*On May 20, 2014, Complainant [redacted] was telephonically interviewed by Sergeant Dinah Grote from Internal Affairs Bureau. Below is a summary of her statements. For her complete verbatim statements, refer to IAB's audio files and/or her transcribed interview, listed in* ***Volume 1****, under* ***Transcriptions-Complainant-IAB Interview****, section of the case book.*

Complainant [redacted] stated that when she was arrested by the California Highway Patrol, her BAC (Blood Alcohol Content) was .09%. When she arrived at Santa Clarita Sheriff's Station, Subject Ament introduced himself as "Deputy Joe."

During the fingerprinting/photographing process, Subject Ament asked for her phone number stating he could help her with her criminal case. He gave her his cellular phone and she entered her information into his phone with the purpose of him helping her.

While in custody, she did not offer Subject Ament sexual favors, sex, or a "blow job." She stated she is a conservative person and that she would not use that verbiage. She admitted that she kissed Subject Ament when he kissed her, but she did not offer him any sexual favors.

Ms. [redacted] stated that until recently, she lived near an In-N-Out burger (same location where Ms. [redacted] heard a conversation) in Canyon Country and frequented it often with friends, very likely in October 2013. She denied she spoke about her arrest in that environment and with her friends. She said she might have mentioned her in custody situation with the deputy, but it would have been done in a private environment and not in public. She denied she talked about "getting a deputy fired." Her only knowledge was that Subject Ament had his gun taken away, but not fired.

## NON-EMPLOYEE WITNESSES STATEMENTS:

[redacted] *MH/*[redacted] *DOB:* [redacted]

On March 21, 2013, Witness [redacted] was interviewed by Sergeants [redacted] and Raymond Moeller from Internal Criminal Investigations Bureau. Below is a summary of their interview. *For ICIB's complete summary, refer to the ICIB case book, presented in* ***Volume 2, Exhibit C****,* ***pages 16-18****, in the case book. For his verbatim statements, refer to IAB's audio files.*

Witness [redacted] stated he is Complainant [redacted]'s [redacted] and he picked her up from the Santa Clarita Sheriff's Station after she was released from custody. When they arrived home, Complainant [redacted] plugged her cellular phone into the charger because the battery was dead. Immediately after being plugged in, Complainant [redacted]'s cellular phone received a text message.

Witness [redacted] asked Complainant [redacted] who sent her a text. Ms. [redacted] told Witness [redacted] that she met a deputy at the station who took her number and was going to help her get out of her DUI arrest. He did not know the deputy's name and believed it was the only text Complainant [redacted] received from the deputy.

A couple of days later, Witness [redacted] said Complainant [redacted] received a text message from a female named [redacted] (Non-Witness Employee [redacted] telling Complainant [redacted] to stop texting her [redacted] (deputy). He said at this point, he then learned the deputy had inappropriately touched Complainant [redacted] while she was in custody at the jail. Witness [redacted] encouraged Complainant [redacted] to report the incident to the Sheriff's Department.

Witness [redacted] stated that Subject Ament's [redacted] Witness [redacted] was initially upset at Complainant [redacted]. When Witness [redacted] learned of the allegations she sided with Complainant [redacted] and also encouraged her ([redacted] to report the incident to the Sheriff's Department. He said Complainant [redacted] later received a forwarded text message from Witness [redacted] which had been sent to her ([redacted]) from Subject Ament. The message read something to the effect that he (Ament) could not live without his [redacted] and [redacted], and he was going on a drinking binge. He said [redacted] then texted Complainant [redacted] which read, "This is what you did." He stated that Complainant [redacted] and Witness [redacted] no longer communicate with each other.

[redacted], *FW/*[redacted] *DOB:* [redacted]

On April 3, 2013, Witness [redacted] was interviewed by Sergeants [redacted] and Raymond Moeller from Internal Criminal Investigations Bureau. Below is a summary of their interview. *For ICIB's complete summary, refer to the ICIB case book,* ***Exhibit C, pages 19-22****, in the case book. For her verbatim statements, refer to IAB's audio files or her transcripts, listed in* ***Volume 1****, under* ***Transcriptions- Non-Employee Witness, ICIB Interview****, in the case book.*

Witness [redacted] stated Subject Ament is her [redacted] and [redacted] of their [redacted] She said as a result of the allegations, they are no longer a [redacted] They had been [redacted] and she caught him sending text messages, e-mails and photographs of himself to another woman from their home computer. She confronted Subject Ament and he denied corresponding with anyone.

Based on past history of Subject Ament talking with other women, Witness [redacted] became suspicious. She looked through their computer and discovered e-mails, text messages and photographs, which were sent to Complainant [redacted] cellular phone. Witness [redacted] estimated that one hundred text messages had been exchanged between Subject Ament and Complainant [redacted]

Witness [redacted] sent Complainant [redacted] a text message identifying herself as Subject Ament's [redacted] asking [redacted] who she was and how long she had been texting Subject Ament. Complainant [redacted] told her she had been arrested earlier in the week and explained that she met Subject Ament when he was the jailer at Santa Clarita Sheriff's Station.

Witness [redacted] confronted Complainant [redacted] about the text messages she sent Subject Ament and the extent of their relationship. Complainant [redacted] explained that she did not know Subject Ament had a [redacted] and that she [redacted] "hooked up with him." She told Witness [redacted] that Subject Ament came on to her sexually while she [redacted] was in jail.

Complainant [redacted] continued to tell Witness [redacted] that Subject Ament told her [redacted] that he was going to take her where there were no jail surveillance cameras. [redacted] told Witness [redacted] that they [redacted] and Ament) had "made out" in the back of a jail cell on more than one occasion. She ( [redacted] admitted to kissing and making out with Subject Ament, but denied there had been any other physical contact such as touching or sex.

Witness [redacted] said she eventually received a telephone Complainant [redacted] and they spoke about Subject Ament and the entire incident. She said Complainant [redacted] advised her that she [redacted] was going to report Subject Ament's inappropriate actions to the Sheriff's Department. Witness [redacted] told her it was her [redacted] s) decision and agreed that the incident should be reported.

Witness [redacted] said Complainant [redacted] sent Subject Ament a text message and confronted him about his relationship with Witness [redacted] Initially, Subject Ament denied that he was in a relationship with Witness [redacted] He later admitted to Complainant [redacted] that he was involved with Witness [redacted]

Witness [redacted] confronted Subject Ament about Complainant [redacted]s allegation that he kissed her [redacted] in the jail. Subject Ament denied the allegation and called Complainant [redacted] a liar. He also said he only texted Complainant [redacted] was because he knew her [redacted]s) uncle. She said Subject Ament came home that evening, packed his clothing and left, ending their relationship.

Witness [redacted] said two days after her telephone conversation with Complainant [redacted] she [redacted] received a phone call from Subject Ament who told her he had been relieved of duty.
Witness [redacted] did not recall if she had called Complainant [redacted] and asked her to withdraw her complaint. Witness [redacted] also did not recall if Subject Ament pressured her [redacted] to contact Complainant [redacted] to have her withdraw her complaint. She said Subject Ament blamed her [redacted] for him being relieved of duty and told her [redacted] that she needed to fix it. He also told her that if he lost his job, she would be in trouble too, referring to financial support for their [redacted]

*On January 15, 2014, at approximately 1128 hours, Witness [redacted] was telephonically interviewed by Sergeant Grote from Internal Affairs Bureau. Below is a summary of the interview. For Witness [redacted]s complete verbatim statements, refer to IAB's audio files or her transcripts, listed in* ***Volume1****, under* ***Transcriptions- Non-Employee Witness, IAB Interview****, in the case book.*

Witness [redacted] stated Subject Ament is her [redacted] and [redacted] of the [redacted] She stated she became suspicious of Subject Ament and could tell he was trying to "hide" something, so she checked their computer and discovered Subject Ament sent e-mails and pictures of himself to Complainan[redacted]s cellular phone.

From her work site, Witness [redacted] texted Complainant [redacted]s cellular phone from her cellular phone and eventually learned of the allegations. She said during her texting to Complainant [redacted] Complainant [redacted] texted Subject Ament about Witness [redacted] claiming to be his [redacted], which he denied. She said it was three-way texted conversation between her, Complainant [redacted] and Subject Ament.

Witness [redacted] stated that after Subject Ament was relieved of duty, he blamed her and told her it was all her fault. He told [redacted] she needed to "fix" what she did and that he was going to lose his job because of her [redacted].

At the time they were together, Witness [redacted] said she had come across different e-mail accounts of Subject Ament's, but was not familiar with the "joedirt" address. She had no knowledge that Subject Ament possibly had a secondary cellular phone account ending in [redacted] and was familiar with his cellular phone, which ended in [redacted].

Witness [redacted] denied she ever used Subject Ament's cellular phone (ending in [redacted] to text Complainant [redacted] She stated they worked opposite schedules, there was no reason for her to have his phone, and that Subject Ament had his phone "glued to his hip."

> **IAB Note**: In Subject Ament's first IAB interview, he stated Witness [redacted] used his cellular phone to text Complainant [redacted] In Witness [redacted] ICIB interview, she stated she contacted Complainant [redacted] using her cellular phone.

**[redacted] FW/[redacted] DOB: [redacted]**

*On May 7, 2014, at approximately 1040 hours, Witness [redacted] was interviewed at her residence by Sergeants Dinah Grote and Patrick Mannion from Internal Affairs Bureau. Below is a summary of her interview. For Witness [redacted] complete verbatim statements, refer to IAB's digital audio files and/or her transcripts, listed in **Volume 1**, under **Transcriptions- Non-Employee Witness, IAB Interview**, in the case book.*

> **IAB Note:** On April 22, 2014, at approximately 1316 hours, Chief Jacques A. La Berge, received an e-mail from [redacted]" Ms. [redacted] indicated she overheard a conversation in which a deputy was falsely fired from allegations of sexual favors. *For further, refer to the e-mail, presented in **Volume 2**, as **Exhibit K**, of the case book.*

Witness [redacted] stated that mid-October 2013, between 2-3 p.m., she was seated and eating at an "In-N-Out" burger restaurant located on Sand Canyon, in the city of Canyon Country.

Seated behind her were approximately three unknown females, 18-20 years old. Ms. [redacted] said she only heard bit and pieces of their conversation, but at one point one of the females mentioned a driving under the influence (DUI) arrest. She then heard another female say something to the effect, "I should have offered sex to the chipper, instead of Joe asshole." That same female made reference to "Joe or Joseph" twice and then said she (unknown female) had the deputy fired.

The unknown female continued to say she offered the cop a "blow job," to show her breasts and sex, but the "cop was a prude." The female stated, "It doesn't matter, I got that bitch cop, Joseph, fired anyway." The female also said she would not have to see the cop "around here again." Ms. [redacted] presumed the cop was a deputy who worked out of the Santa Clarita/Canyon Country area.

When Ms. [redacted] stood up from her seat and before leaving the restaurant, she turned back and saw the female who made the comments. She described the female as Caucasian with long, brown hair with a large tattoo with script writing on her inner left wrist. Ms [redacted] felt disturbed by what she overheard and felt bad for a "long time," so she decided to report it to the Sheriff's Department.

In early December 2013, Ms. [redacted] went to the Santa Clarita Sheriff's Station front desk and told an unknown male deputy that she needed to talk to someone about information pertaining to an employee who works at Santa Clarita Sheriff's Station. The uniformed male deputy took her name and phone number, but no one from the Department called Ms. [redacted] back.

Within this same time frame, Ms. [redacted] went to her gym (formerly known as [redacted] in the city Lancaster) and spoke to an unknown retired deputy sheriff who went by the name of "RB or RJ." She asked him if he knew a deputy named "Joe or Joseph." Through more conversation, the retired deputy mentioned a "Joseph Ament" who transferred to Santa Clarita Sheriff's Station.

Approximately one week later and out of curiosity, Ms. [redacted] decided to look up "Joseph Ament" on Facebook. After she located his name, she learned they had mutual friends, so she requested to be his friend on Facebook, which he accepted. She also believed Subject Ament was possibly the same "Joe" the females spoke about while at the In-N-Out burger restaurant because it listed his employer as "LASD" on his Facebook account.

A few days later, mid-December 2013, Ms. [redacted] and Subject Ament started texting one another. Late that month, Ms [redacted] met Subject Ament for the first time. Her second face to face meeting was in late January or early February 2014, when she and Subject Ament lunched together.

> **IAB Note:** Ms. [redacted] was shown a photograph of Subject Ament, which she said was the same Joseph Ament she had met. *For further, refer to the photograph presented in **Volume 2**, as **Exhibit L**, in the case book.*

Mid-to-late February 2014, Ms. [redacted] received a text from Subject Ament stating he was looking for a job. She questioned him as to why he was looking for a job and he texted her back saying a girl arrested for DUI (driving under the influence) made allegations against him accusing him of "rape under the color of authority," which he denied doing. He also texted her stating a girl offered him a "blow job" and other sexual favors. Although Ms. [redacted] did not want to pry, she said a lot of things ran through her mind, such as the conversation she overheard at In-N-Out burgers.

> **IAB Note:** Ms. [redacted] provided IAB investigators copies of the text messages, presented in ***Volume 2**, **Exhibit M***, of the case book.

Ms. [redacted] stated that before this text, Subject Ament told her he still worked for the Sheriff's Department, so she never made another attempt to contact the Sheriff's Department about the conversation she overheard at In-N-Out burger in October 2013. She apologized to him about his job loss and they did not text/talk about it again because Subject Ament told her he was embarrassed. Because of his embarrassment, she did not tell him what she overheard at the restaurant.

In late March 2014, Ms. [redacted] met up with Subject Ament for the third time. She said she had not seen him since, but they have texted one another on and off. Ms. [redacted] felt the girl at the In-N-Out restaurant was the same girl who made false allegations against Subject Ament. She also felt inclined to support Subject Ament by submitting an online, e-mailed petition to her friends and customers and obtained over 3,500 signatures. She did not tell Subject Ament about the e-mail, but felt she needed to help him because she believed the female lied to the Sheriff's Department.

> **IAB Note:** Ms. [redacted] supplied IAB a copy of her authored e-mailed letter that was sent to her friends and associates, but could not locate the entire 3,500 signatures. *For further, refer to the e-mail, presented in **Volume 2**, as **Exhibit N**, in the case book. Also, refer to the exchanged e-mails from Ms. [redacted] to IAB Sergeant Grote regarding the e-mails/texts, presented in **Volume 2**, **Exhibit O**, of the case book.*

Ms. [redacted] then went online and looked to see who the person in charge was at Santa Clarita Sheriff's Station and located Chief La Berge's name, so she e-mailed him her concerns. Ms [redacted] has been [redacted] for 15 years and has [redacted] She stated her [redacted] has heard her talk about Subject Ament, but has never met him. She added that he (husband) does not know about the allegations against Subject Ament, the conversation she overheard at the restaurant, or her IAB interview. She denied any past or current physical relationship with Subject Ament, adding he (subject) had a girlfriend in the police academy, and that she and Subject Ament are just "casual friends."

Ms. [redacted] continues to text/communicate with Subject Ament via her cellular phone or Google mail account, which is set to a "private" circle of friends. She indicated she did not set her account to "private," but her account came that way and she does not know how to change it to "un-private."

Ms. [redacted] feels she has betrayed Subject Ament by talking to Internal Affairs Bureau and was unsure if she was going to tell him she had been interviewed. She stated Subject Ament did not know about her online petition or her e-mail to Chief La Berge nor did he request her help.

## SUBJECT STATEMENTS:

On April 17, 2013, at approximately 1125 hours, Subject Deputy Joseph Ament was interviewed by Sergeants [redacted] and Raymond Moeller from Internal Criminal Investigations Bureau. Subject Ament invoked his right to counsel. Precise wording may be obtained by reviewing the digitally recorded interview located in IAB's audio files, and/or his transcripts listed in ***Volume 1***, under the ***Transcriptions - Subject - ICIB Interview**,* section of the casebook.

On January 14, 2014, at approximately 1235 hours, Subject Deputy Joseph Ament was interviewed by IAB Sergeants Dinah Grote and Patrick Mannion at the Internal Affairs office. Subject Ament was represented by Attorney Mitchell Kander from Green & Shinee. Precise wording may be obtained by reviewing the digitally audio recorded interview located in IAB's audio files, and/or the verbatim transcripts listed in ***Volume 1***, under the ***Transcriptions - Subject - IAB Interview #1***, section of the case book.

Subject Joseph Ament stated that he has been assigned to Santa Clarita Sheriff's Station for two and a half years. Prior to being relieved of duty, he had been assigned as the Early Morning shift Jailer for approximately seven months.

He said Complainant [redacted] was brought into the Santa Clarita Station jail by the California Highway Patrol (CHP), arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol. He had minimal communications with her while CHP booked her into custody, but stated Complainant [redacted] appeared to be irate/upset, stating she wanted to get home to her child.

Subject Ament said during CHP's booking process, Complainant [redacted] told him he was cute and attractive, and she became somewhat flirtatious. He said he gets complimented a lot, but just ignores it. He said she registered 0.16% Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) on the Breathalyzer machine.

After CHP completed their paperwork, he completed his and then took her back to get her fingerprinted. He said the fingerprint process should two minutes, but because Complainant [redacted] kept talking, it took him five minutes to complete her prints. *Refer to a copy of the face page of Complainant [redacted]'s Booking and Property Record, which lists Complainant [redacted]'s blood alcohol content (BAC) as 0.11%, presented in **Volume 2**, as **Exhibit I**, in the case book.*

During their conversation, he learned her [redacted] is a Los Angeles County (LACO FD) fireman whom he (Ament) had many interactions with in the field. Out of respect for the fireman, he said instead of placing Complainant [redacted] into the female holding section with the other females, he placed her into the drunk/sober tank cell where she could be by herself

There, he gave Complainant [redacted] a mattress, blanket and food. He stated she was crying and uncertain about the process, so he explained it to her and gave her advice on what she needed to do. He said Complainant [redacted] calmed down and went to bed.

Subject Ament stated at approximately 0605 hours, he gave Complainant [redacted] another Breathalyzer test in which Complainant [redacted] registered 0.02% BAC on the machine, so he released her from custody. *Refer to a photograph copy of Santa Clarita Station Jails' Blood Alcohol Content chart for release of intoxicated persons, presented in **Volume 2**, as **Exhibit J**, in the case book.*
Subject Ament said the protocol for handling DUI arrests would be to give them a Breathalyzer when they arrive at the jail on top of what was done in the field. He said prior to release, another test is conducted to see if the arrestee meets the requirement of 0.02% or less in order to be released. He also said he does not follow the chart, but relies upon the Breathalyzer machine and he gave Complainant [redacted] either hot food or peanut butter and jelly sandwiches to help her sober up.

> **IAB Note:** Based on the chart ***(Volume 2, Exhibit J)***, the estimated time release for intoxicated persons with a 0.16% BAC is eight hours. With 0.12%, it is six hours and 0.10% is five hours.

That evening, Subject Ament received a text message from a number that he did not recognize nor have programmed into his phone. He found out it was Complainant [redacted] and asked her how she obtained his number. Complainant [redacted] told him she located his number from his Facebook account.

Subject Ament said that when he first started his Facebook account, he did not list his phone number. When he put the Facebook application on his phone, it linked his number to his account, which he had no knowledge of until he researched it after Complainant [redacted] texted him.

After Subject Ament realized who the text came from, she (Complainant [redacted] asked him about her ticket. He explained the court process to her and told her not to text him again. He said that was the last time he heard from her until the evening hours on November 13, 2012 when Complainant [redacted] messaged his [redacted] Non-Employee Witness [redacted] over Facebook.

Complainant [redacted] told Witness [redacted] that he (Ament) made sexual comments and forced himself on her. Complainant [redacted] also said she was going to turn (report) him in to his station.

Subject Ament stated that he was relieved of duty two days later and he did not tell anyone about Complainant [redacted]s allegations. He believed Complainant [redacted] was upset at him because she asked him to release her early from custody, but he would not do it. In hindsight, he said he should have notified the Department

about the allegations. He felt that he was doing the right thing in taking care of her since her [redacted] was a County (Los Angeles) fireman.

Subject Ament knew he did nothing wrong and that there was jail video footage to prove his innocence. He said if something did "come about" he would prove his innocence.

> **IAB Note:** Subject Ament was shown the jail security video ***(Volume 2, Exhibit D)***, which showed Subject Ament leaning against the hallway wall, adjacent to the sober tank window, looking inside the sober tank window for approximately 27 seconds, starting at 0406:52 hours. Below is his explanation of what occurred.

> **IAB Note:** For clarification of his statement and while the video was stopped (0406:40), IAB Sergeant Grote pointed on the computer screen to the window at the sober tank, which was previously identified as the "A" tank/drunk tank by Subject Ament.

Subject Ament stated he was looking at two inmates in the cell and one guy was "messing around," which caught his attention and that was what he was watching during this time frame. He said he could not see inside the drunk/sober tank and that he was just waiting for Complainant [redacted] to finish using the bathroom.

Subject Ament denied that he ever went inside the sober tank with Complainant [redacted] sat down next to her on a mattress, or kissed her. He also denied that he could assist her with her criminal case (DUI arrest).

Subject Ament also denied that he sent a text message from his cellular phone ending in [redacted] to Complainant [redacted] on the morning of her release (November 13, 2012) at 0549 hours. He said his cellular phone is kept on the jailer's desk, but he did not text her. He denied he entered Complainant [redacted]s name and cellular phone number into his phone contacts and denied that he had his phone beyond his jailer desk as it is not allowed.

Subject Ament said the text messages that were exchanged between "Joe" and Complainant [redacted] talking about her jail experience, "dispatch," and possible termination of his behavior was not him. *Refer to the E.M. shift In-service dated November 14, 2012, which reflected that Subject Ament worked and was assigned to "Complaint 1," presented in* ***Volume 2****, as* ***Exhibit H****, in the case book. Also included, are In-services for November 15, 16 and 17, 2012, which reflect that Subject Ament was on his regular days off (RDO).*

Subject Ament denied that he texted Complainant [redacted] about possible termination for his "behavior." He did not send Complainant [redacted] a picture of himself either in or out of Department uniform, stating they were obtained from his Facebook account.

*For the texted pictures from cellular phone ending in* [redacted] *refer to the ICIB case book, presented in **Volume 2**, as **Exhibit C, pages 74 & 75**, in the case book. For the complete texting messages to Complainant* [redacted] *cellular phone, refer to **pages 31-89**.*

Subject Ament stated he did not have an e-mail account named "joedirt" nor does he have a "shadow" phone account ending in [redacted] He said after his review of the text messages he realized someone must have opened an account using his personal information. He said he was unsure if he should or could do anything. He said he would report the theft of his identity to the Sheriff's Department.

> **IAB Note**: As of May 15, 2014, Subject Ament had not reported this to the Sheriff's Department. Refer to his statement from that date in his second subject interview, page 25.

Subject Ament denied he told Complainant [redacted] that he took her to the sober tank because there were no security cameras. He denied he fondled her breast, placed her hand to his crotch area or kissed her. He denied that he flirted with Complainant [redacted] and stated she was lying. He said Complainant [redacted] was lying because he would not release her early from custody/jail.

Subject Ament denied that he pressured his [redacted] Witness [redacted] to contact Complainant [redacted] to have her withdraw her complaint or to "fix" the issue. He stated her cellular phone "died a couple of times," so he loaned her his cellular phone when they were at home together. Otherwise, he had it when he went to work.

He said that in the early morning hours, on November 14, 2012, his last night at work before being off for his weekend, Witness [redacted] possibly sent Complainant [redacted] text messages from his cellular phone ending in [redacted] because he did not.

Subject Ament did not initially advise his supervisors of Complainant [redacted]s allegations because he felt he handled her allegations "appropriately." He said he was then relieved of duty and not given the opportunity to explain, pending the investigation. *For further detail, refer to the entire criminal case book by ICIB, presented in **Volume 2**, as **Exhibit C**, in the case book.*

*On May 15, 2014, at approximately 1235 hours, Subject Deputy Joseph Ament was interviewed by IAB Sergeants Dinah Grote and Patrick Mannion at the Internal Affairs office. Subject Ament was represented by Attorney Mitchell Kander from Green & Shinee. Precise wording may be obtained by reviewing the digitally audio recorded interview located in IAB's audio files, and/or the verbatim transcripts listed in **Volume 1**, under the **Transcriptions - Subject - IAB Interview #2**, section of the case book.*

Subject Ament stated he had nothing further to add or offer Internal Affairs Bureau in this investigation. He stated he met Ms [redacted] on his old/former Facebook account. After a week or so of e-mail communication, they started texting one another. In December 2013, they met face to face and in February 2014, he took her to lunch. He said mid-April 2014, he met her a third time to pick up some items she obtained for his [redacted] They are friends and have not had/have a physical relationship with one another. Because Subject Ament was having a difficult time, he confided in Ms. [redacted] and told her he was looking for a job. He admitted that he texted her about the sexual assault allegations against him and that he was looking for a job as backup, should he lose his job as a deputy. He also told Ms. [redacted] that the female (Complainant [redacted] offered him sexual favors.

He was unaware Ms. [redacted] had an online petition going on his behalf and that she sent an e-mail to Chief La Berge. He said in his texts to Ms. [redacted] he mentioned he was being investigated for rape under the color of authority based on his interview with investigators from Internal Criminal Investigations Bureau. He said his interpretation of the criminal investigation was "rape" because that word "stuck in his head." He also stated that Complainant [redacted] offered him sexual favors, such as sex, blow job, and showing her breasts. *For further, refer to the exchanged texts between Subject Ament and Ms. [redacted] presented in **Volume 2, Exhibit M**, of the case book.*

Subject Ament was aware of the Administrative Rights for Subject Form and the admonishment to not discuss the facts of the case with anyone other than his representative. He stopped seeing counselors at the Employee Support Services Bureau because he did not feel they provided him the comfort, which Ms. [redacted] did. *For further, refer to the Administrative Rights for Subject Form for Subject Ament, presented in **Volume 2**, under the **Miscellaneous Documents**, section of the case book.*

Subject Ament did not know why he did not mention this information in his initial Internal Affairs Bureau interview. He figured Complainant [redacted] would mention this information during her interview(s).

**MISCELLANEOUS:**
None.

# LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY CHARGE EVALUATION WORKSHEET



| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| ☐ FELONY<br>☐ MISDEMEANOR | AGENCY NAME: LASD<br>AGENCY FILE NO. (DR OR URN): 913-00018-2003-441 | DA CASE NO.: 33270062<br>DA OFFICE CODE: SCV | DATE: 10/23/2013<br>VICTIM ASSISTANCE REFERRAL ☐ YES - NOTIFY VWAP ☐ NO |

| SUSP. NO. | SUSPECT | CODE | SECTION | OFFENSE DATE | REASON CODE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | NAME (LAST, FIRST MIDDLE): AMENT JOSEPH<br>DOB: [redacted] SEX (M/F): M BOOKING NO.: NIC VIP ☐ Yes ☐ No KEY CODE<br>☐ Gang Member Name of Gang<br>Victim Name: [redacted] | PC | 243.4 | ~~10/26/2013~~ 11/13/12 | B<br>JS |
| 2 | NAME (LAST, FIRST MIDDLE)<br>DOB SEX (M/F) BOOKING NO. VIP ☐ Yes ☐ No KEY CODE<br>NOT SUBJECT TO DISCOVERY<br>☐ Gang Member Name of Gang<br>Victim Name: | | | | |
| 3 | NAME (LAST, FIRST MIDDLE)<br>DOB SEX (M/F) BOOKING NO. VIP ☐ Yes ☐ No KEY CODE<br>☐ Gang Member Name of Gang<br>Victim Name: | | Schreiner | | |

Victim Gang Member fields (suspects 1–3): ☐ Victim Gang Member Name of Gang; Victim DOB: [redacted] (suspect 1); Victim DOB: (suspects 2, 3)

LAST NAME: ____ FIRST NAME: ____ DA CASE NUMBER: ____

**Comments**

There is insufficient evidence, considering all legal and factual defenses, to convince a jury of guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The suspect is charged with kissing and of fondling the victim one time, while she was in custody for a DUI. It is unclear at what point this occurred and if the victim was still under the influence of alcohol. It is unclear if the alcohol effected her recollection. As far as this deputy can determine this event was not caught on video and there are no admissions of guilt or any independent witnesses.

The suspect and the victim appeared to have continued their relationship, via text messages at least, after her release. The suspect did not give a statement to internal affairs and was not "Lybargered", so we have no interview from the suspect. However, the suspect denied the incident to his then [redacted] who called the victim. The text messages seem to take a vindictive turn once the suspect's [redacted] contacted the victim.

Takeing into account the totality of the circumstances and anticipating all reasonable defenses this case cannot be proved beyond a reasonable doubt. The I/O concurs in this decision

| COMPLAINT DEPUTY (PRINT) | COMPLAINT DEPUTY (SIGNATURE) | STATE BAR NO. | REVIEWING DEPUTY (SIGNATURE) |
|---|---|---|---|
| J.GOOTMAN | [signature] | 092666 | [signature] |

9/10/10

CHARGE EVALUATION WORKSHEET

28 B

[redacted]

MEMORANDUM

TO: JEFF GOOTMAN, DDA
Santa Clarita Area Office

FROM: ROSA ALARCON, DDA
Justice System Integrity Division

DATE: October 4, 2013

RE: LASD Deputy Joseph Ament

This matter was submitted to our office for filing consideration. Since it appears that it is misdemeanor conduct, we are referring the matter to you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please feel free to e-mail at [redacted]@da.lacounty.gov or call me at 213-[redacted] Thank you.

28 C




John L. Scott, Sheriff

*County of Los Angeles*

**Sheriff's Department Headquarters**

*4700 Ramona Boulevard*

*Monterey Park, California 91754-2169*




July 25, 2014

Sgt. Scott Graham of Internal Affairs Bureau attempted to serve letter on Friday, July 25, 2014, but the employee was not home.

This letter was sent to the employee via certified mail on Friday, July 25, 2014.

This letter was also sent via U.S. mail with postage fully paid to the last known address of employee on Friday, July 25, 2014

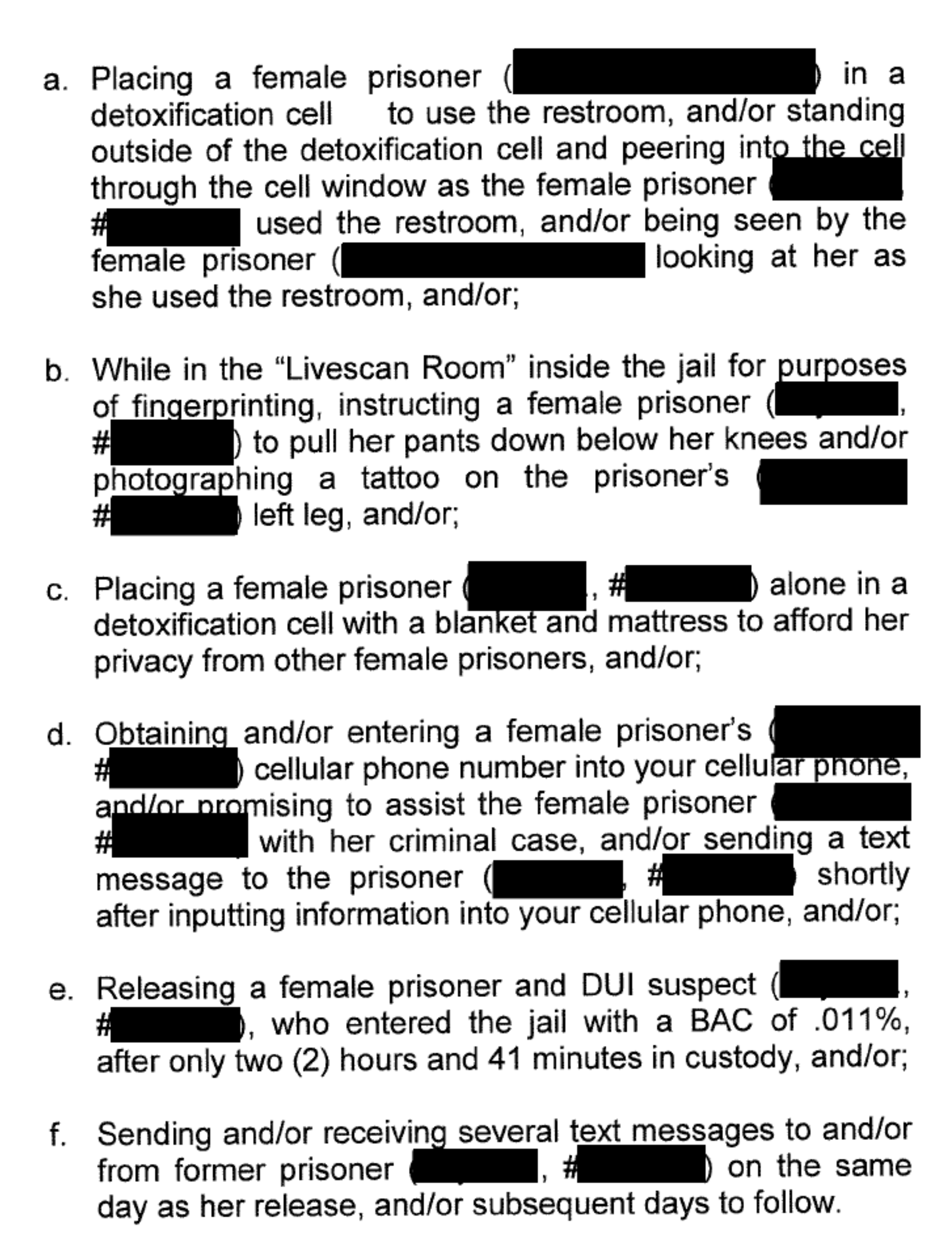
Deputy Joseph Ament, #[redacted]

Dear Deputy Ament:

You are hereby notified that it is the intention of the Sheriff's Department to discharge you from your position of Deputy Sheriff, Item No. 2708A, with this Department, effective the close of business August 15, 2014.

An investigation under IAB File Number 2324547, conducted by Internal Affairs Bureau, coupled with your own statements, has established the following:

1. That in violation of the Department's Manual of Policy and Procedures, Sections [redacted] and/or [redacted] and/or [redacted] and/or [redacted] (as it pertains to Section [redacted], on or about November 13, 2012, while on duty and assigned as the station jailer at Santa Clarita Valley station, you knowingly fraternized with, and/or did favors for, and/or created a personal relationship and/or association with a female prisoner ([redacted]) at the station jail, and/or failed to perform your duties in a manner which would tend to establish and maintain the highest standard of efficiency in carrying out the functions and objectives of the Department, and/or failed to conform to the work standards established for your rank, and/or such conduct conflicted with the Department's Core Values, Mission, and/or Creed, as such embarrassed yourself, and/or the Department, as evidenced by, but not limited to:



a. Placing a female prisoner ([redacted]) in a detoxification cell to use the restroom, and/or standing outside of the detoxification cell and peering into the cell through the cell window as the female prisoner ([redacted] #[redacted] used the restroom, and/or being seen by the female prisoner ([redacted] looking at her as she used the restroom, and/or;

b. While in the "Livescan Room" inside the jail for purposes of fingerprinting, instructing a female prisoner ([redacted], #[redacted]) to pull her pants down below her knees and/or photographing a tattoo on the prisoner's ([redacted] #[redacted]) left leg, and/or;

c. Placing a female prisoner ([redacted], #[redacted]) alone in a detoxification cell with a blanket and mattress to afford her privacy from other female prisoners, and/or;

d. Obtaining and/or entering a female prisoner's ([redacted] #[redacted]) cellular phone number into your cellular phone, and/or promising to assist the female prisoner ([redacted] #[redacted] with her criminal case, and/or sending a text message to the prisoner ([redacted], #[redacted]) shortly after inputting information into your cellular phone, and/or;

e. Releasing a female prisoner and DUI suspect ([redacted], #[redacted]), who entered the jail with a BAC of .011%, after only two (2) hours and 41 minutes in custody, and/or;

f. Sending and/or receiving several text messages to and/or from former prisoner ([redacted], #[redacted]) on the same day as her release, and/or subsequent days to follow.

2. That in violation of the Department's Manual of Policy and Procedures, Section 3-01/040.75, Failure to Make Statements and/or Making False Statements During Departmental Internal Investigations, on or about January 14, 2014, while on duty and participating in your interview conducted by Internal Affairs Bureau, made false statements, as evidenced by, but not limited to:

a. Stating you kept your cellular phone on the jailer's desk, and/or did not take your cellular phone into the jail, and/or security area of the jail, and/or entered and/or caused a female prisoner's cellular phone number to be entered into your cellular phone, and/or stating you did not send, or cause to send a text message to a female prisoner's ([redacted], #[redacted]) cellular phone at approximately 0549 hours, and/or while the prisoner was still in custody, and/or;

b. Stating you never sent any text messages to a female prisoner ([redacted], #[redacted]) after she was released from custody.

3. That in violation of the Department's Manual of Policy and Procedures, Section [redacted], [redacted] (refusal to act as directed by a supervisor or higher ranking personnel), on or about February 24, 2014, you failed to follow the direction and/or order of a higher ranking Department member, as evidenced by, but not limited to:

a. Communicating with [redacted] who was not your designated representative and/or attorney, and/or discussing the facts of the IAB case against you, and/or issues discussed during your subject interview.

4. That in violation of the Department's Manual of Policy and Procedures, Sections [redacted] and/or [redacted] and/or [redacted] and/or [redacted] (as it pertains to Section [redacted]), on or about November 13, 2012, while on duty and assigned as the station jailer at Santa Clarita Valley station, knowingly fraternized with, and/or did favors for, and/or created a personal relationship and/or association with a female prisoner ([redacted]) at the station jail, and/or failed to perform your duties in a manner which would tend to establish and maintain the highest standard of efficiency in carrying out the functions and objectives of the Department, and/or failed to conform to the work standards established for

your rank, and/or such conduct conflicted with the Department's Core Values, Mission, and/or Creed, as such embarrassed himself, and/or the Department, as evidenced by, but not limited to:

a. Entering the detoxification cell where a female prisoner [redacted], #[redacted] was being housed alone, and/or sitting on the mattress next to her, and/or attempting to kiss [redacted]., #[redacted], and/or;

b. Entering the detoxification cell a second time, and/or blocking a female prisoner [redacted], #[redacted] from exiting the cell, and/or wrapping your right arm around her waist, and/or pulling her body toward you until you were face to face, and/or hugging her, and/or telling her she was pretty, and/or kissing her on the cheek, and/or putting your left hand on her right breast, over her clothing, and/or manipulating her right breast with his left hand for three seconds, and/or grabbing her breast, and/or placing your left hand on her right hand, and/or forcing the open palm of her right hand onto your erect penis over your clothing, and/or pushing your erect penis against her vaginal area (over clothing).

Additional facts for this decision are set forth in the Disposition Worksheet, Investigative Summary and Investigative Packet which are incorporated herein by reference.

You may respond to the intended action orally or in writing. In the event that you choose to respond orally to these charges, you have already been scheduled to meet with Chief Jacques La Berge, on August 15, 2014, at 1000 hours, in his office, which is located at 4700 Ramona Boulevard, Room 435, Monterey Park, California 91754. If you are unable to appear at the scheduled time and wish to schedule some other time prior to August 15, 2014, for your oral response, please call Chief La Berge's secretary at [redacted] for an appointment.

If you choose to respond in writing, please call Chief La Berge's secretary to cancel your scheduled appointment, and send your response to the facts contained in this letter to Chief La Berge's office by no later than August 15, 2014.

Unless you are currently on some other type of authorized leave, pursuant to Rule 16.01 of the Los Angeles County Civil Service Commission Rules, effective immediately, you are on paid administrative leave which will continue during the fifteen (15) business days you have to respond to the intended discharge or until the

conclusion of your pre-disciplinary hearing. If you are presently on an authorized leave, that leave will continue during the fifteen (15) business days you have to respond to the intended discharge, or until the conclusion of your pre-disciplinary hearing.

Failure to respond to this Letter of Intent within fifteen (15) business days will be considered a waiver of your right to respond and will result in the imposition of the discipline indicated herein.

If you did not receive the investigative material on which your discipline is based at the time you were served with this correspondence, you may contact the Internal Affairs Bureau at (323) 890-5300, to obtain a copy of the case file.

The Sheriff's Department reserves the right to amend and/or add to this letter.

Sincerely,

JOHN L. SCOTT, SHERIFF

Alicia E. Ault, Captain
Internal Affairs Bureau

Note: Attached for your convenience are excerpts of the applicable areas of the Manual of Policy and Procedures.

AEA:md

c: Advocacy Unit
Employee Relations Unit
Jacques A. La Berge, Chief, North Patrol Division
Internal Affairs Bureau
(File # 2324547)